APPENDIX A — TRANSCRIPT OF JUNE 30, 1998 TAPED MEETING

ITEM # 7-0318-98

Date: 6/30/98
Time: 1550 - 1605 hours

(Conversation of Gerald Branigan, Tinker Schmolke and Melody Johnson)

Set up:

Detective Artigue: It's a pretty long way down here, man, from where you are.

Tinker: It's a little bit before that stop sign beyond the road about half way between the road and the stop sign.

Detective Artigue: Oh, that looks like that thing you do the windshield wipers . . .

Tinker: That's good right here . . .

Detective Artigue: Alright, I'm dropping him off, you got the tape running?

Tinker: Yeah.

Detective Artigue: I'm dropping him off at ten minutes to, it's 6:30.

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Tinker: Alright, I'll meet you all back here in what?

Detective Artigue: Meet me back here when you are finished.

Tinker: Alright.

(Walking)

(Knocking on door)

Melody: (answers) Tinker, how's it going?

Tinker: Where is he?

Melody: Come in.

Gerald: Hey.

Tinker: Hey.

Gerald: What's up?

Tinker: Nothing on call. What's your name bro?

Gerald: Gerald, bro.

Tinker: Gerald?

(Inaudible)

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Tinker: (inaudible) . . . yeah, but I kicked the habit

(inaudible) . . . my Dad's at the graveyard

(inaudible) . . . but uh, I want to talk to you, bro . . . what's the deal?

(inaudible) . . . that's about right

Tinker: How the fuck are we going to get there?

Gerald: Well, he's putting up $2500 cash first, and another $2500 . . .

Tinker: Cause I want some of my funds up front so I know I ain't getting fucked.

Gerald: Well, listen, he's going to put $2500 cash up front.

Tinker: Not me, I like to know a little bit about what's going down, I mean what the fuck, we going fucking, we going fucking, this bitch is gonna disappear off the face of the earth?

Or is she going to fucking . . .

Gerald: We're gonna OD her ass.

Tinker: OD her ass?

Gerald: She's a heroin addict, so I figure we're gonna OD that mother fucker. The old man wouldn't call him. . . .

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Tinker: I called him last night at 12:00. I need the money. . . .

(inaudible)

Tinker: I'm not supposed to. . . .

Melody: (inaudible)

Tinker: Well, I got my lawyer in the process of doing all that and everything, you know, but uh. . . .

Gerald: That's it, where Charlene's Cajun, huh?

Tinker: What happens if these niggers got guns? Huh?

Gerald: This is his old lady, his ex-wife, she lives all by herself. She lives by herself.

Tinker: She ain't gonna have no guns, or nothing, we ain't got to worry about that.

Gerald: No, supposedly, he's supposed to give me some pictures with some information where she's at, where she hangs out at, . . .

Tinker: Cause I won't go in there all blind folded and shit. Bro, when I go in there, when I go to do this job, I want to do it right.

Gerald: Well, supposedly there ain't nothing to it, her mother's daughter is out of the picture, his daughter's moved back down here. So it ain't gonna be no problem.

Tinker: Well, I don't want nothing with her daughter.

Gerald: Yeah. She ain't gonna be there. Yeah, she's 20 something years old, she moved. She already moved back to New Orleans, so there's ain't nothing but her momma there. So that's why I thought. . . .

Tinker: No, I'm thinking more along the lines, bro, you can pay me off cheap, 3, $3,000, and I'd like at least $250, $500 up front.

Gerald: You telling me tonight, bro, you want $2500 straight up front?

Tinker: Split that with me, and we'll do some business. I want the money I wanna see, bro. Cause I ain't going to do no job for nobody unless I'm getting paid.

Gerald: We'll split $2500 but if you want to come, we can both go up there and go.

Tinker: Look, I'm game bro. My old lady is giving me more shit, I wasn't gonna do it bra, but as I showed you I come over eat your shit, stuck a knife in your fucking throat, so you know we can fucking do this. After you pulled that switchblade on me, I mean, that's all good, tho, but we can go do this.

Gerald: Yeah, I'm gonna talk to him tonight brother, and we can sure will. I called him last night and he's way in Marerro, he lives up here somewhere. In fact, he bunks here, he's got money coming out his ass.

Tinker: He got more money than he knows what the fuck to do with.

Gerald: I told him straight up, you know what, sorry about that but I want $2500 up front and $2500 when I come back. He said go.

Tinker: You only getting paid five? I thought you said seven.

Gerald: No, he's giving me $5,000 grand to do the job.

Tinker: Oh so you were going 25 slipped him. I ain't trying to get in your business or nothing, but what's the bitches' nanny, or do I need to know all that?

Gerald: I don't know her first name, but her last name is Tsolainos, probably Greek.

Tinker: Tsolainos?

Gerald: Yeah. She's got a fucking track all the way up and down her arm, supposedly fuck, she's a heroin addict. . . .

Tinker: So she needs to be popped.

Gerald: Yeah, she needs a little extra dope that's all. We can put her out cause she's trying to fuck with the kids and shit, trying to take them all away, and fuck, taking all kind of money that he's got and shit, and he said fuck it. I just as soon give her that fucking dose send her on and say goodbye.

Tinker: Hahaha. I hear you, bro. Ain't nothing to it.

Gerald: I'm gonna call tonight, bro. I gotta go with her Daddy on a tugboat tomorrow. But I'm only staying for one day. And uh, I'll be back. So if I don't have to go to work. . . .

Tinker: I want more. I want some more information on this deal, bra. I want to know as much as you know.

Gerald: Oh yeah, you'll know everything. . . .

Tinker: I don't need, I don't need to know the dude but that would be nice. You know what I'm saying, but I don't want to go in there blindfolded, baby.

Gerald: Well, yeah.

Tinker: Cause I don't want to be blindsighted.

Gerald: I don't want to go in there blindfolded either. I said I want to know where she lives at, where she hangs out at. . . .

Tinker: I want to know how many times a day that bitch takes a shit, I want to know everything.

Gerald: How much fucking dope she does a day, that close . . . if she does a fucking couple of hundred dollars of heroin a day, we can really knock that mother fucker off.

Tinker: St. Louis?

Gerald: Huh? Yeah, she's in St. Louis

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Tinker: How far is St. Louis from this mother fucker? It's a good ride.

Gerald: A good ways, I figure we could catch a bus up there.

Tinker: Catch a bus?

Gerald: Yeah, catch a Greyhound bus. We could go up there and ride around, mother fucker, take care of her, get rid of the mother and come back. At first I thought. . . .

Tinker: I thought about it the other day when I told you no, but you just kind of caught me by surprise, you understand, I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know what it stuck to, dig?

Gerald: Yeah, I'm supposed to get all kinds of pictures and shit tonight, either tonight, or. . . .

Tinker: If you get the pictures, I want to see some of them too. So I know who I am going to get, straight up. But I don't need to know, you know. . . .

Gerald: I'd like to have somebody to come with me anyway, watch my back while I sit there.

Tinker: Alright, bro, well let me get back around here then.

Gerald: I'm a go get on my highway after while, but I gotta go I'm waiting for her Momma and Daddy to get back . . . (inaudible) knew I was coming. . . . Take care.

Tinker: Yeah, we'll go do this, bro. You gotta let me know. Those pictures. . . .

Those pictures and cash . . . gotta see those pictures. . . .

Gerald: Yeah. Cool then.

Tinker: Alright. See ya later.

(leaves, walking)

Tinker: Sound good enough for you?

Detective Artigue: Huh?

Tinker: Sound good enough for you?

Detective Artigue: I couldn't hear it, tell me what he said. Leave that on, tell me what he said.

Tinker: He said, I told him, he said $2500 up front, and I told him I want half of that and last name, he got that on the recorder, I don't remember it, she's uh, Greek, he wants us to OD her, so he's gonna give us $2500 up cash, up front, up cash up front, and the other $2500 after it's done.

Detective Artigue: So you ain't gonna get $5000 for the deal?

Tinker: No, I'm gonna get $2500.

Detective Artigue: I thought you said he's gonna give you $2500 and $2500.

Tinker: Well, that's what he told me. I thought he didn't mean it. He told me at first $7,000 so I figured I had to say, bra, you are gonna have to at least break me off three. . . . I mean, but he said "No, I'm getting paid $5,000 for the whole job", I was like oh, alright. Well, then he said uh, I said well, 25, 25, 50/50, I said that will work. He said we'll fucking uh, take a bus up there, and we'll fuck with the money we got we'll buy a cheap little piece of shit car, and we'll get pictures and shit tonight of her and so I can get the car information place.

Detective Artigue: Where are you going to get pictures of her, from the husband?

Tinker: Un, Panos, that's her husband.

Detective Artigue: Her husband is here in town?

Tinker: Uh, I don't know. Honestly, that I don't know. All he said is we getting pictures .. . can't do this at the Time Saver brother, I mean people know me. . . .

Detective Artigue: You gotta keep going, John.

John: I'm trying to get out of here now.

Detective Artigue: Do it.

Tinker: But uh, sound like a real deal.

Detective Artigue: But he wouldn't give you any money up front.

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Tinker: He said the dude is supposed to be bringing the $2500 tonight.

Detective Artigue: Tonight?

Tinker: Tonight.

Detective Artigue: And the pictures?

Tinker: And the pictures, and I told him he had to give me $1250. He says he's going on the boat for one night with this old lady's dad, and he'll be back tomorrow. And he'll give me my $1250 and show me the pictures and shit . . . well, that might be tonight I'll be getting all that information for you.

Detective Artigue: If he's going on the boat tonight, you ain't gonna get it.

Tinker: Yeah, baby, but whatever I need and everything, he's gonna get the pictures. His name is Gerald.

Detective Artigue: This guy here?

Tinker: Yeah.

Detective Artigue: Gerald what?

Tinker: He didn't go into all that. I didn't want to pry too much.

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Detective Artigue: Got enough? Yeah, shut it off.

Tinker: Huh?

Detective Artigue: Time now is 4:00 o'clock.

This tape revised on 10/7/99 mmp